CONTINUES A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION TO THE CONTINUES OF THE

Wednesday, May 28, 2003

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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Volume 34 No. 2

Tuition goes to \$50 per credit, may go up more

by Wendy Geist of The Commuter

Summer term class schedules were mailed out weeks ago, but students who already used the schedule to register for classes will find a bigger tuition bill than they expected.

The college's Board last week raised tuition to \$50 per credit, a 16 percent increase over the \$43 students paid this year.

Beginning summer term, it will now cost a student carrying a full-time load of 15 credits \$750. In addition, credits above 15 will no longer be free.

A two-year degree at LBCC that requires the minimum 90 credits will now cost \$4,500.

The college has also increased some of its fees, effective this week. The application for admission fee is \$25 instead of \$20 and the international student application for admission has increased from

\$20 to \$100

Also, starting June 2, students will have to pay \$10 for their LBCC student I.D. cards, doubling the one-time cost for the old card.

The Budget Committee approved a 2003-04 budget at last Wednesday's meeting that includes \$2.8 million in reductions, making it the third year in a row that the college has had to reduce services and programs.

The new budget supports a tuition

revenue enhancement strategy, meaning that in order to save programs and services from further cuts, the cost of tuition will go up.

Another tuition increase is possible.

"We don't know what the state revenue will be," said President Jon Carnahan, about funds the college receives from a currently shrinking state budget.

If LBCC receives less in state funds,

▼ Turn to "Tuition" on Pg. 4



Photo by Thomas Lin

Spring Stress Relief

Students filled the Courtyard for fun in the sun last Wednesday during the annual Spring Fling sponsored by Student Life & Leadership. There was jousting (above), car bashing, sumo wrestling and, of course, the popular dunk tank. At right, Student Programming Board member Michael Vandehey does his best to drop ASG President Oren Hawksford into the drink. When his aim proved insufficient, Vandehey ran up and pushed the button to ensure Hawksford wouldn't spend the day dry.



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Russell Tripp's donation will pay for restoration of Takena Theater.

Takena Theater to get \$500,000 tune-up

Story and Photos by Thomas Lin of The Commuter

Opening night, 8 p.m. An orange glow reflects off the backdrop screen, seeping between the lone wooden structure with its narrow columns and makeshift steps, over the bare stage, and into the expectant audience.

The lights dim and the musicians strike up the band. The cast enters from behind the audience, bouncing down the aisles and onto the stage. Takena Theater erupts in song, dance and applause.

Before, during and after the performance of "Quilters," the curtains stay up out of sight, perhaps to hide the wear and tear. Asbestos and all, they're an original fixture in this 25-year-old proscenium arch theater.

"This is a fairly unique resource," said Bruce Peterson, who has been Takena's theater manager the past 11 years. "There's none like it in the area."

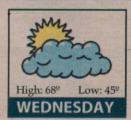
Peterson describes the theater as a machine designed to aid on-stage perfor-

mances. As such, he likens Takena Theater to a car that has reached the end of its maintenance life. "It's like having an old car and having to keep putting it back together again."

In particular, he said that the analog lighting system has parts so old, they haven't been made for a decade. "The lighting system is five generations behind state-of-the-art. It's like the difference between a 2003 Chevy and a '57 Chevy."

▼ Turn to "Takena" on Pg. 6

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND











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Send letters to The Commuter: Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and keep them at 250 words or less

U.S. holidays rooted in diverse cultures and nationalities

Adele

Kubein

he Commuter welcomes guest editorials, letters to the editor and feedback, as long as the opinions expressed are appropriate and do not attack individuals or groups with other points of view. The opinion page should present opposing points of view to be well-balanced. Our college is diverse, and as the voice of the student body, The Commuter should present diversity.

The key to getting other people to give your opinion some consideration is thought. It helps to have knowledge of the facts regarding the point you are trying to make. Lashing out at other groups or individuals does not show thought or knowledge.

Human beings survived and evolved as a group. Cooperation was necessary. One caveman alone could not bring down a mastodon, nor could one person build a pyramid. In an increasingly small world, the survival of the human race will depend on cooperation between all the people of the earth. Pollution and warfare, trade and communication, do not stop at borders, we are all in this world together.

The United States is a microcosm of the world's future. This country is the great experiment in cooperation. Our language, most of our holidays and our very genetic makeup are a combination of the diverse races and nationalities that came nal Americans are the last vestiges of the American Indian Tribes. Our culture, our language, our inheritance, is a product of the blending of many nations. If this country were to truly be American only, we would all have to leave and give the country back to the Indians.

Christmas-time celebrations predate Christianity by many centuries. Many religious observances originally were sea-

sonal rituals. Religions appropriated those seasonal rituals for their own celebrations, among them Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The natives of North and South America celebrated the winter

solstice before the settlers came. Our American celebration of Christmas came with the European and Spanish settlers, who were among the first to come to America in great numbers.

Easter originally was a fertility festival. It made sense to celebrate fertility at a time when the earth was waking up from winter. It is named after Ishtar, an early Sumerian goddess. Easter also came with the early settlers to the United States.

Saint Patrick's Day is Irish. Many nations have special days to celebrate labor, ans, similar to our Memorial Day, Labor all contributed to "our culture." Day and Veterans Day. During WWII, many countries gave far more lives for freedom than we did. Russians, British and French, among others, honor their war dead just as we do. Labor Day is celebrated to honor workers all over the world.

One truly American holiday is the Fourth of July. Mexico celebrates Cinco

> de Mayo for the same reason: it commemorates Mexico's war with France. Our language is a combination of words from all over the globe, and our inheritance is a rich tapestry of tradi-

tions, beliefs and cultures equally as diverse as our population. The American Indian culture and belief is still a strong element of our folklore.

African music, food and language have blended into American mainstream culture for over 200 years. Asian food, traditions and influence are also part of the blend, along with western and eastern European and Mediterranean influences. Very few of us can trace our heritage back to just one area, group, race or ethnicity. The various groups that came

Until the mid-1800s, much of what we consider the United States did belong to Mexico. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Nevada all were part of Mexico until the United States took over those territories in an expansionist war with Mexico, 1846-48.

Spanish was the language spoken in those territories and even after the U.S. won those lands, many residents were still Spanish speaking, just as they are today. Louisiana was purchased from France, as part of the Louisiana Territory, which spanned form the Gulf all the way to the northernmost reaches of the U.S. French is still spoken there fre-

The earliest settlers brought African slaves with them, and it has been an uphill battle for equal rights for African Americans ever since. It took 100 years from the ratification of the 14th and 15th Amendments to actually implement equal treatment and voting rights. The legacy of slavery and segregation and prejudice, is still a stranglehold on African Americans and other minorities who are trying to achieve equal status.

Affirmative action is an equalizer. More Whites than minorities attend universities and get high-paying jobs. Affirmative action may not be a perfect system, but until prejudice is unthinkable, some system will have to prevail to put all Americans on an equal footing.



EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer. Contributors who wish to submit columns are asked to first contact the editor to arrange for space in the next issue.

All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous or in poor taste.

Opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter Staff or Linn-Benton Community College.

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Misguided opinions come from ignorance, lack of tolerance

To The Editor:

I am writing to respond to Matt Griffith's letter to the editor May 21, 2003. I found his letter to be very offensive and of a seemingly uneducated viewpoint.

Upon reading the letter, I found myself wondering what is the point he was trying to make? Also, did this man actually do research on the statements about Mexican history that he made? I am referring to the part where he writes, "I only care about my American celebrations and Cinco de Mayo is not on that list nor should it even be celebrated here." Griffith continues, "For one thing it was the Spanish-American war."

Correction—Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the Mexican victory over the French army in 1862, in the battle of Puebla.

Here is where I start to have a real problem with Mr. Griffith's reasoning and that he didn't bother to do any

research to back up his single quote of history. He states that he only cares about his "American" celebrations and infers that other country's celebrations should not be celebrated in America.

Why not? Last time I checked, we are still a democracy. There is no dictator who can tell other people not to hold celebrations because they feel it is un-American for whatever reason.

Besides, most of us have ancestors who come from a variety of different countries. People whose ancestors are from different countries, but lived here their whole lives are still Americans. Say someone was born in another country but immediately came here, spent their entire life here and doesn't know any other lifestyle? Does that mean we should call them un-patriotic, because they happened to be born in another country? I don't think so.

Additionally, I find it irrational and pompous of Griffith to think that people of other countries shouldn't celebrate their holidays here. America, as it was formed by our founding fathers (who, by the way, weren't the first people here, either!!!) was formed with the ideas that it would be a safe haven for those who are persecuted and that everyone have a fighting chance at freedom and happiness.

Of course, that hasn't always happened, I don't deny that at all. There is injustice everywhere. But unfortunately, it's not going away. Injustice and a fight for equality will continue as long as there are people who think they are inherently better than others. One final note: If you don't like to celebrate diversity, Mr. Griffith, I suggest you go bury your head in the sand, because you are surrounded.

Erica Hennig

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CAMPUSINEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus

Student Programming Board positions filled for next year

of The Commuter

The dust has settled, interviews are completed, and positions have been filled for the 2003-2004 Student Programming Board.

The student body plans events and programs for students. "We're the voice for 27,000 students," commented Ryan Kirchner, team coordinator.

"We try to plan events and speakers around what we feel the student body would want to participate in," Kirchner continued.

The fund money for the board comes from studentpaid tuition fees. The Student Programming Board takes out a small percentage from the tuition fee dollars to fund events. For an organization to get an event or activity funded, they first must submit a proposal to the board explaining what they would do with the grant money. A recent example of an event that the board funded was the "Spring Fling," held in the Courtyard.

Kirchner commented on the desire to keep students on campus more. "The hard thing about this school is the students go to school, to work, then home," he said. "It's hard to keep the students here. We're not like a university."

One of the main goals of the board is to "build an environment to keep people here and interact," said Kirchner, "So instead of just paying for classes we're also giving them something else."

There are eight students on the board who have expertise in their own specific area. Kirchner stated that the board is very diverse when it comes to the student's background, gender, age, and nationality. The eight positions are: Team Coordinator, Multicultural Activities Coordinator, Intramural Sports Specialist, Health and Recreational Specialist, Campus and Recreation

Specialist, Community Events Specialist, Series Events Specialist, and the Current Events and Political Activities Specialist. Also, all of the board members have regular office hours.

The positions on the board were chosen not by student votes, but through an application and interview process. The applicants were interviewed by the advisors.

Unlike other organizations, the board uses a consensus process when making decisions pertaining to funding, rather than a parliamentary process. The consensus process gives the board more opportunities to voice their opinion and discuss the issue more, whereas the parliamentary process is best compared to "yeah" or

The Student Programming Board meetings are open to the public and are held every Wednesday in the Student Life & Leadership building at 2 p.m.



Capturing the Motion

Aida, a member of the Corvallis Belly Dance Performance Guild, performs in front of students in a figure drawing class last Wednesday in the Forum. The students were practicing gesture drawing.

Albany extended learning plans to travel through history in New England next fall

from the LBCC News Service

A visit to historic New England in the fall is the focus of a traveling history class offered by the LBCC Albany Extended Learning.

The New England trip will be held Oct. 9-17, 2003. Visitors will explore Boston, Cape Cod, Cape mouth. Sights to see include the site of the Salem Witch Trials, the Norman Rockwell Museum and walks in Lexington and Concord where the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired. Participants will even follow Mary's "little lamb" to school.

The trip was planned to take advantage of the fall foliage in the area, but history is the focus. Albany Extended Learning Director Gwenn Marchese will

help lead the group, relying on her personal memories and knowledge of the area.

The cost of the trip for each participant will be dependent on the number of travelers, though an initial estimate based on 20 travelers at double occupancy is \$2,090.

The cost includes LBCC tuportation and all breakfasts. Most lunches and dinners will not be covered in the cost.

Three informational meetings will be held during spring and summer terms at LBCC to prepare for the trip, and review of the history of the area.

Those interested in more information about the trip should contact Del Weeks, 541-754-1831, or Albany Extended Learning, 541-917-4845, by June 1, 2003.

As graduation dawns, students prepare for future

by Dee Denver for The Commuter

Caps and gowns have been ordered. Our friends and families have been notified. Applications have been mailed, and acceptance letters have been received. Life is in its never-ending cycle of change. Soon finals will be over and some of us will be moving on to four-year colleges and universities.

Amber Jaime, a current LBCC student, will be transferring to the University of Oregon next fall. Her biggest worries are the class sizes and less oneon-one contact.

"I am excited, but I"m a little intimidated," Jaime said. "I'm basically wrapping things up at LBCC. I'm ready to

Jaime has been taking general courses at LBCC and will receive her associates of arts degree in June. She will be majoring in psychology at U of O with a minor in sociology.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people and really exploring my major," Jaime states. She has already filled out her early registration papers and is ready for an on campus tour and orientation in June.

in similar situations this time of year.

Although transferring to a new school can be exciting it is also a little intimidating. According to Angie Klampe, a counselor at LBCC, the first step for a successful transfer is to contact and visit the four-year college or university you want to go to and contact the faculty in your

major area. Other things to look into while you are at the college are housing, job opportunities, and transportation costs. Many colleges and universities have departments that can help, but do some research of your own. Sometimes just walking the streets near the college or university can give you a great idea about housing. The best time to start looking for a place to live is at the beginning of the

Many students are finding themselves summer when there are more and better choices.

> Residence halls are another option for housing. The ages of the people that live in the residence halls vary, but most of the people are in their late teens to early twenties, and a residence hall can take away the pressure of finding a house and paying the monthly bills.

Klampe advises you talk to the admissions department as well as a counselor. The admissions department can letyou know what credits will transfer to the university and the counselors can help you decide on the

right classes to take in the fall. Using these resources can be the difference between a smooth transition and a bumpy one. Klampe also advises the transfer students to be as organized

"The successful students tend to be

as they can.

the organized ones. Get there on time, have your books and papers with you, just be ready," Klampe states. "It will be different." Probably the biggest difference between LBCC and a four-year college or university is the class size. According to a few OSU students you will go from classes with 20 to 30 students to classes with 50 to 200 students. You will also encounter a lot of classes that are taught by graduate teaching assistants instead of the professors.

Even if you are not transferring next fall you can start this process early. Andrea Hawley, a LBCC student with a year left at the community college, has already started to talk to counselors and

"I want to make sure I do the right thing," Hawley says. She wants to attend U of O law school, but she isn't sure where she wants to get her bachelors degree. "I know I can get more credits here and I like the small setting of LBCC."

The transition from LBCC to a fouryear college or university can be easy, as long as you are prepared.

Talk to your counselors at both colleges, make sure the paperwork is done and get ready to have an exciting time in Editor-in-Chief: Wendy Geist Newsroom Desk: 917-4451 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUSINEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus

From KRT News



Double Trouble

Identical 17-year-old twins in Nuremberg, Germany, made it appear they could be in two places at once, and used the trick to bully younger kids into handing over protection money and generally doing their bidding. The two would dress in identical clothes. One twin would start to chase an intended victim, who would round a corner and "come face-toface with the other twin and freak out," a policeman said. By telling victims "you can run but you can't hide" they established a thriving criminal enterprise until the cops stepped in.

Great Show

A naked couple pulled their car over on a highway in eastern Albania and then got out and made love on the side of the road in broad daylight, undeterred by the fact they were being observed by hundreds of other drivers. When they were finished, they got back into their car and drove off. The daily Korrieri newspaper referred to the pair as the "wild sex couple."

Nice Chest

A man with a "borderline personality disorder" has accused his female doctor of having sex with him while he was her psychotherapy patient. She denied this and, as proof, submitted a picture of her breasts to the physicians disciplinary board. She said this proves her innocence, because they bear the scars of breast reduction surgery that the patient didn't mention when asked if his doctor had any distinct marks. She offered to show her actual breasts to the board. A reporter described them as "spectacular."

Hungry Cat

A fisherman snagged a 25-pound chinook salmon in the Kalama River, and strapped the fish to his back for the hike out of the deep woods of Washington state. That's when the cougar spotted him. The big cat pounced from behind, knocking him down, and gobbled down some of the fish before scampering off.



Pain in the Neck

Dr. Volney Willett, M.D. will be on campus Thursday, May 29, from 12-1 p.m., in the Alsea-Calapooia room to talk about "Neck and Back Pain."Dr. Willett is a family practitioner with Albany Family & Specialty Medicine and will answer questions about neck and back pain. He invites other questions of a medical nature as well. The seminar is free to staff and students, and is sponsored by the LBCC Family Connections, the LBCC Wellness Program and Albany Family & Specialty Medicine. Call 917-4897 to register. Soup and roll lunch will be provided.

Presidential Search

The Board of Education is conducting initial interviews of presidential candidates this week. The finalists will receive a second interview during the first week in June. The screening committee which includes representatives from faculty, classified, management and the community has been invited to participate in an advisory capacity to the Board. Faculty and staff will be notified of an open forum schedule

Free Concert

The LB Chamber Choir will present a free concert in the northeast corner of the Courtyard on Thursday from 12-1 p.m.

Opening the Umbrella

Writers included in this year's Eloquent Umbrella and other Valley writers are invited to share their work in an open reading, today (May 28) from 2 to 3:20 p.m. in Takena Hall room 205. Copies of the 2003 Eloquent \$4 to 10 on a sliding scale.

Umbrella will be available for purchase.

Watch "Basquiat"

The film "Basquiat" will be shown as part of the Spring Art Film Series on Thursday, May 29 in Forum room 104 from 2:30 - 5 p.m. The showing is free.

Good Play

"Quilters" is on stage this week at LBCC in Takena Theater. Showings are May 29 at 7:30 p.m., May 30 and 31 at 8 p.m., and June 1 at 3 p.m.

Write Now

Today (May 28) Kathryn Lang, senior literary editor of the SMU Press, will talk about "Preparing a Book, Manuscript, and Publishing Fiction & Non-Fiction." She will give advice on manuscript preparation, working with agents and editors, and publishing successfully. Lang's presentation is sponsored by the OSU MFA Program and is part of The Craft of Writing Series. It will be held in the La Raza Room, in the Memorial Union on the OSU campus at 4 p.m.

Pickers Welcome

On Saturday, May 31, New Morning Bakery, in Corvallis, is hosting its Last Saturday Bluegrass Jam at 7:30 pm and hosted by Sally Jane Wilson and friends.

Coffeehouse Finale

On Friday, May 30, at 7:30 pm is the Best Cellar Coffeehouse Season Finale featuring Plaehn-Hino Blues Band and Two Hits & a Ms. at the First Congregational Church, 4515 West Hills Road, Corvallis. Admission is



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Joseph Novak, Seth Williams and Susan Prock share what diversity means to them at last week's Peace Pole dedication ceremony.

Peace poles help unify community

by Wendy Geist of The Commuter

The campus has three new pillars of hope to look up to.

Three peace poles, each displaying four different languages reading: "May peace prevail on earth," were unveiled last Tuesday in a dedication ceremony led by student ambassador Seth Williams, Board of Education member Joseph Novak and Multicultural Center coordinator Susan Prock.

"It's my hope that the poles will promote peace and diversity on campus," Williams said.

The poles are "adding to a worldwide network of peace," Prock said, and will be joining over 2,000 other poles in 180

"We need to interact with people and not treat them as experiences" Prock said, quoting philosopher Martin Buber.

"It's not easy to do, but that is what I aspire to do," she said, explaining how the poles will remind her everyday to treat other people as human beings.

Novak, who was born and raised in Hungary, has a lot of pride in the United States and expresses it through words and involvement in the community.

"I never knew what peace was," Novak said, explaining how the country he lived in changed its governmental structure from fascism to commu-

"Prejudice is not the right attitude to have," he said, "We must celebrate our unity."

Tuition: LB rate still below state-wide average of \$60 per credit

▲ From Pg. 1

"we will need to look at a tuition increase beyond this \$7 increase," he said.

The college's tuition could increase another \$10, making it \$60 per credit, which is the current state average for community colleges. LBCC's new tuition of \$50 per credit is still the lowest in the state.

James McDevitt, a second-year student in business, spoke in front of LBCC's Board of Education last Wednesday before they took a vote on the Budget Committee's recommended \$7 increase.

"LBCC needs to raise tuition to supply the best education it can to its students," McDevitt said. "Each time a class is full, we are hurt from reaching our goals."

"Iam in favor of raising tuition," McDevitt also told the Budget Committee.

Some classes are offered only once a year and students find themselves paying extra costs including rent when waiting around to get their degree.

"It will cost me way more to have to wait cheaper tuition. a couple years than being able to work those two years," McDevitt said.

Or, to take the required classes students "will now have to go to OSU and pay \$130 per credit or will have to drive to another community college and still pay more," he

Committee member and board chair Janice Horner said, "I would have to echo what the student here tonight said. Having to wait another year to finish your degree before getting a job would be bad."

Committee and board member Tom Wogaman said, "I will use the young man's reasoning; waiting a year is bad. But there will be folks in my community that will have a tough time paying."

Although the \$7 tuition increase will not add any classes, the new cost of tuition reflects the competitive market of a community college education. Students from other districts have been turning to LBCC for

Dr. Ed Watson, vice president for academic affairs, stated his concern.

"If other schools raise tuition and allow their full time enrollment to grow, and we don't do the same, we are in tough competition," he said.

"Portland Community College's full-time enrollment will be down only 1 percent," Watson said, "and they have the highest tuition. LBCC's full-time enrollment could be down 5 percent next year."

Besides the increase in tuition, 11 other options for fee and revenue increases were discussed at the April Budget Committee meeting, but the committee decided that the individual options would produce too many new processes and accounting systems to maintain them.

"The college is based on tuition" and it would be "in the best interest of the students to not charge extra fees in lieu of tuition," Carnahan said.

CAMPUS CALANDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 21-27

3:30 p.m. Stud. Gov. Mtg., SL&L 2-3:30 p.m. Eloquent Umbr., T-205

2:45-5 p.m. "Basquiat," F-104 12-1 p.m. 'Neck/Back," Alsea Cal.

Choir, Courtyard 7:30 p.m. "Quilters" T-Thtr.

12-1 p.m. Vets. Forum, Mult. Ctr 8 p.m. "Quilters," Tak. Theater

8/3 p.m. Takena Theater SAT./SUN 2-4 p.m. Movie Days, Clubs and Organizations Room

CORRECTION

In last week's story about Writing 121 Awards, the location where Susie Ford took the class was incorrectly stated.

Also, the line: For more information, contact Beth Camp of the English Department at 917-4556; was deleted.

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CAMPUSINEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus

Energy budget shows oil resources may vanish by 2050

by Heather M. Scott of The Commuter

People of all ages, races and backgrounds, moving through their day-to-day lives use energy. A student typing on a home computer, a housewife reading under the soft glow of a table lamp, a young man speeding through the streets while talking on a cell phone to a woman cooking a TV dinner in a microwave oven, children snuggled next to the television enjoying the heat of the oil stove only feet away, are all examples of energy usage in the world.

But what if these resources were no longer available? This is the question students in Greg Mulder's general science class asked themselves earlier this month while working with a program appropriately titled "the Energy Budget".

The Energy Budget was originally created by Pat Keefe of Clatsop Community College. Keefe used numbers only relevant to the United States in the creation of his program, which is currently an on-going educational project involving Mulder, Keefe, and Rick Tatara from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana.

Mulder began the global energy budget after coming to work at LBCC.
The computer program successfully

budgets the energy accessible for the human race up until the year 2030. Resources

such as coal, oil and natural gas as well as solar, nuclear and wind power are featured in the budget. The Energy Budget requires students to look ahead and decide upon an outlook for the future of energy, take into account the lifestyles of people around the world, anticipate changes in energy leaders and substitution for current energy sources.

"One of the beautiful things about the Energy Budget is that there are many possible energy futures that will work for our world. By playing with the Energy Budget, you can tailor the future that you would most like to see," said Mulder in an e-mail interview.

Mulder speculates, "at current trends, there is an 80

percent chance that we will be effectively out of oil by 2050." Mulder also commented that there is approximately a 10 percent chance that we could be out of oil by 2030 based on the rate that the human race is currently utilizing the resource. In addition; the population of the human race is growing exponentially, doubling every 35 years, but according to Mulder, the growth rate is beginning to take longer because of the HIV epidemic and "limited" childbirths in China. The energy budget does consider this increase but depleting energy sources also mean depleting lifestyles. Energy pricing is likely to increase in future years as oil and natural gases are less available.

"We live in an era in which energy is very cheap. You might think that \$1.70 is expensive for gasoline. However, when you take inflation into consideration, gasoline is at the cheapest that it has ever been since we startedusing it a little over a century ago," said

Mulder. This reasoning may also contribute to the lack of knowledge that the public has about energy problems the world may face in the future.

Incredibly, the United States, with

United States, with only 5 percent of the world population, manages to consume 30 percent of the yearly global energy supply. Furthermore, the average United States citizen "consumes over 150 times the energy of the typical Nigerian."

"Personally, I would put a large tax on gasoline so that our prices are consistent with those of Europe. I think more Americans would walk or take mass transit although I think that will take years to change. In the era of unending money, people simply got raises to cover the increased costs and kept driving—I don't see those easy money days returning any time soon and perhaps people would then think about other alternatives," said Sue Shumway a student in Mulder's GS106 class.

Even though estimates conclude we may see the end of oil and possibly natural gas by 2050, there is an abundance of coal left on the earth, which provides a significant amount of our current energy. According to www.PBS.org, 50 percent of the United States' current electricity is generated by coal.

According to Mulder, coal is the most dangerous energy source, killing approximately 500,000 people per year. "The good thing is there is a lot of it," said Mulder about coal to his GS106 class. "The bad thing is there is a lot of it." Despite skepticism, nuclear fission

holds the title for safest energy source. In fact, Mulder anticipates the use of nuclear power (primarily nuclear fusion) as the energy source that will take the place of oil and natural gas upon its consumption. Mulder also hopes for the further exploration of solar energy.

The US Department of Energy Web Site shows that 20 percent of monthly energy in the United States is from nuclear electric. According to the Uranium Information Center at www.uic.com, 60 times more energy could be extracted from nuclear energy sources. "Today 31 countries use nuclear energy to generate up to 3/4 of their electricity." Even though nuclear reactors are expensive to build, the reactors themselves are relatively cheap to operate. Nuclear fission energy does have downfalls including the nuclear waste that has to be disposed of and the possibilities of nuclear reactors being used for terrorist activity.

Nuclear fusion, if workable, will have "nearly limitless fuel supply and will create little or no waste", according to Mulder.

Solar energy is an option to create clean energy, although building adequate solar cells to create enough energy to replace the worlds consumption would require the coverage of the the entire planet, if all humans chose to use energy as it is used in North America.

Along with solar energy, wind power is a clean and plentiful energy source. Wind is also one of the fastest growing of all major energy sources; unfortunately, wind only produces a small fraction of the energy the human race consumes. Wind power also takes up a great deal of space.

US Department of Energy statistics show that hydroelectric energy, or the capture of flowing water to create electricity, takes top billing, at 99.1 percent of renewable energy sources used in the United States, yet produces only 7 percent of the total energy output. Unfortunately, most rivers in the world have already been tapped for this purpose

"The numbers pretty clearly show that we'll be running out of fossil fuels some time in the middle of this century. When students were asked what we can do about this, they typically answered "We'll use solar and wind and we'll be ok"-it doesn't take much manipulation of the numbers to show that solar and wind aren't the complete solution," said Mulder.

Mulder offers three quick tips to those wishing to do their part to conserve some energy: First, buying compact fluorescent light bulbs will save energy and potentially 35 dollars a year from your pocket book. Second, have a free energy audit done on your home. Third, simply stop driving.

"Ride a bike, take the bus, it's healthier for you, better on the environment, lowers your taxes and conserves energy!" said Mulder.



Heads Up

Third-year graphic arts students Josie Gonzales, Jamie Pike and Richard Beard play a friendly game of croquet last week. Graphic art students have made it an annual tradition to play croquet on the lawn behind the AHSS building on the night they set up the Student Graphic Design Show in the gallery. This year, students played the day after because they said it took too long to set up. Croquet is an outdoor game in which the players use mallets to drive a ball through hoops in the ground.

Photo by Jeremy Hennig

A & E Editor: Peggy Isaacs Newsroom Desk: 917-4453 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

SENTERIALINE TO

Information about plays, movies, books, artwork and other entertaining

Takena: Despite budget cuts, show must go on

▲ From Pa. 1

"It's a wonderful theater building," said George Lauris, performing arts department chair and instructor. But, he added, "Over 20 years, all of the systems in the theater plant are worn out, including the lighting, stage rigging and seats. Renovations need to be done to preserve the function of the building."

"If the lighting failed, we would have to shut the whole theater down," explained Gary Ruppert, director of the Arts and Communication Division.

After years on the capital improvement back burner, aging Takena Theater is finally scheduled for restoration, thanks in large part to a \$500,000 donation from Albany realtor Russell Tripp.

"The music and drama programs have been good resources for the school and community," Tripp said, adding that his decision to contribute to LB was only natural given his longstanding connection to the college.

"I go back a long ways at Linn-Benton," he said. "I was part of the group that got started in 1960 to try to get a community college going in Linn County."

In addition to his 14-year role on the original Board of Education, Tripp has stayed involved and is currently on the LBCC Foundation Committee.

The donation, made in the form of stocks and real estate, may do better than his initial pledge of a half million, Tripp said, depending on the markets.

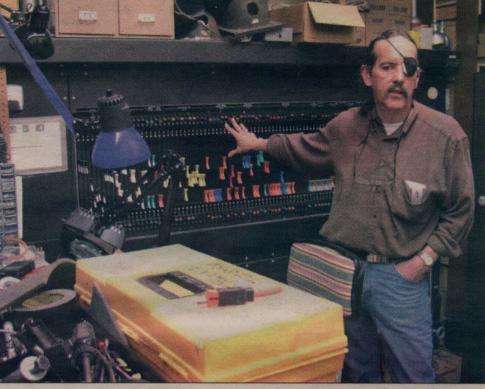
Construction is slated to take place the summer of 2004. When completed, the renovated theater will be renamed after Tripp.

The performing arts department is grateful for the \$500,000 donation, but Peterson said even more is needed if the theater is to last another 20 years.

The renovation proposal from Ruppert's office projects the cost of a new theatrical lighting system alone (including wiring, digital dimmers, computerized lighting controls and gyroscopically-controlled lighting instruments) at \$450,200. The curtains (the main curtain, a non-asbestos fire curtain and black masking curtains) would be another \$107,800. Enhancements to the audio system will cost \$25,850. And improvements to aesthetics (walls and carpeting) and audience comfort (seats) add up to \$300,000.

All told, the prospectus asks for \$883,850.

"The question is, if we project that it costs \$800,000 and the gift is only \$500,000,



Photos by Thomas Lin

In the control room next to the catwalk, Takena Theater Manager Bruce Peterson points to the antiquated lighting system, saying old analog parts are hard to find.

will we be able to use the bond money?" said Ruppert, who manages the renovation project. He explained that though about \$8 million in bond money remains, requests for capital improvements total \$15 million.

As with the recently installed sidewalks and signs, this planned renovation comes at an awkward time, with programs under-funded and tuition on the rise. The performing arts program itself has been one of the hardest hit, and the irony is not lost on members of its faculty and staff.

Instructor Lauris acknowledged, "It is ironic that in the process of reducing our service to students, we have money to restore the theater."

In effect, cuts to the performing arts department have reduced the program down to one year's worth of theater transfer credits from two-year's worth, Lauris said. All technical theater courses were cut (including scene construction, lighting design, stage management and stage makeup classes) along with Acting II, Acting III and Acting For the Camera. "The remaining classes have been overfilled," he added.

The program also lost half of its technical support, with the reduction of Peterson's full-time position to three-quarters time and the elimination of the

shop foreman's half-time position.

The cuts, which took effect this past fall term, have resulted in a reduction of theater department performances from three to two plays a year.

Despite all this, Lauris said, "I don't take cuts personally. I don't take it like we were singled out. I take it like we were part of a general cut."

He pointed to LCC and COCC, both of which lost their theater programs entirely, saying that it leaves Linn-Benton as the only community college with a theater program within a hundred miles. "Here, we were reduced, but not eliminated."

"You can look at it, 'Ok, this is a disaster.' Or you can look at it, 'This is a reality. What can we build out of what's left?" said Lauris, who has taught at Linn-Benton for 17 years. "I'm optimistic that, in the next year or so, through some innovations we'll be able to increase the opportunities for students who wish to have a college theater experience."

He went on to predict, "I think we've hit bottom. I don't think there will be any more cuts at this college."

To put the proposed renovation in perspective, Peterson explained that Takena Theater was originally built for \$2.8 million. Today, he said, it would cost approximately \$10 million to replace it.



Performing Arts Department Chair George Lauris says the 20-year-old facility is long overdue for renovations.

He added that the timing of the renovation in relation to budget cuts is purely coincidental. "They started talking about this 12 years ago," he said.

What's more, Peterson noted, the theater is "a function of the community, not just the performing arts department."

Ruppert agreed, saying that facilities and operations are "just two totally separate things." He added that the theater is also used for musical performances and community events like the annual children's show in the winter that brings 7,000 children from the Linn-Benton areas.

With the planned improvements, Peterson suggested it might also be possible to draw more events and conferences to the theater in the future.

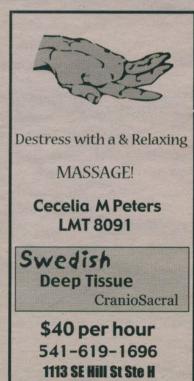
He went on to say that the renovations would reduce maintenance costs over time. Future repairs would be easier and cheaper with the new system, he said. Because parts are so hard to find for the old equipment, it's often uneconomical trying to fix them.

Of course, the renovations will also benefit students studying theater.

Ruppert said the new equipment will add value to the program as production assistants learn to operate modern lights and actors take advantage of the added versatility.

Throughout the play, the glowing background colors shift from orange to blue, red, purple and green. It is now back to orange again.

After two and a half hours of song and dance, sorrow and joy, the enormous legacy quilt unfurls to the delight of the audience. The cast bows and streams offstage. Overhead lights illuminate audience members as they file out of Takena Theater, eager to meet the players. Once more, the stage is empty. For another day, the old machine has kept the show going.





A & E Editor: Peggy Isaacs Newsroom Desk: 917-4453 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu



Information about plays, movies, books, artwork and other entertaining or artistic endeavors

'Local Vocals Local Feet' brings area artists to Majestic

by Peggy Isaacs of The Commuter

Last Monday, May 19, at the Majestic Theater in Corvallis, resident Laurie McKenzie, Cõalli Dog Productions and Community Outreach, Inc., teamed up with local artists to present "Local Vocals Local Feet." The event was a benefit for Community Outreach, Inc. (the new Sunflower House).

The nine performances were different multicultural dances and song, which was the theme of the evening. The dance numbers included: Redwolf, Native American; Indian Students Assoc. of OSU, Indian; Baila con Mexico, Mexican; Contemos con Los Ninos: Mexican and Latino American Music; and belly dancers doing Egyptian Cabaret and American Tibet Dancing. This very colorful dancing all happened before intermission.

In the Spotlight performances, during the second half of the show, was Kimberly Gifford, from "thriving theater." One performance gave a comparison about people growing like sunflowers and what happens to sunflowers if they are

not cared for "just like people."

Amy Gilson and Ali Helmboldt (with Angela Carlson) sang opera. An Aztec dance was performed by Malintzin.

The Rainbo and Jefe Show used "Spoken Word" and a stand-up bass for their duo of political awareness. Performing Celtic music was Gaita Garbanzo.

One of the favorite performers of the evening was definitely the Rainbo and Jefe Show. Their "Spoken Word" sounded more like a political rap in beatnik style, with the bass sounds accompanied the vocals.

Mesmerizing sounds from the Aztec Dancers carried away the thoughts as they ceremoniously danced around the smoke they had lit in the middle of the stage. The sounds took one to an unknown faraway place but deep inside and frighteningly familiar.

This event certainly was thought out and well produced. The performances were excellent and the dancing superb.

Be sure to catch any one of the local artists performing around town; you'll be glad you did.



Photo by Thomas Lir

Linda Spain, Kate Hill, Audrey Perkins, and Sarah Edminster performed last Friday at Takena Theater in this year's spring production of "Quilters." Tickets are on sale now for this weekend.

Local quilts on display at 'Quilters'

from the LBCC News Service

The Quilt Loft in Albany and LBCC Performing Arts are joining forces to extend the fifth annual Quilt Show during LBCC's spring production of the musical play "Quilters."

Antique and heirloom quilts, including friendship quilts, are on display through June 1 in the Library, the Takena Hall Lobby, and inside Takena Theater in conjunction with the play, which concludes this weekend with shows May 29 at 7:30 p.m., May 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. and June 1 at 3 p.m.

According to Jane Donovan, director of the play, having a quilt show is a traditional part of the play. The quilts will be available for viewing

during the regular business hours of the college. Patrons of the show will also be able to view the quilts in the Library half an hour before the play begins on May 29, 30 and 31.

Donovan has received much assistance from the Quilt Loft in preparing for the production, including securing many of the quilting props for the play and taught the actors some quilting procedures and terminology.

Some of the quilts on display come from the Mary's River Quilts Guild in Benton County and the Santiam Scrappers Quilt Guild in Lebanon.

Call the 24-hour reservation/message line in Takena Box office at 541-917-4531 for tickets or more information about the play.

Witty humor and penny whistle bring therapeutic songs to local coffee shop

by Peggy Isaacs of The Commuter

The Creekside Coffee Co., at 5210 S.W. Philomath Blvd., in the Sunset Center, opened their doors on Friday, May 23 to the Rita and Bill Show, which debuted at the Oregon Folklife Festival in 1996.

Rita Brown and Bill Smyth enchanted the crowd with their fun, lively contemporary Folk Music. Brown played the penny whistle, guitar and sang vocals, while Smyth kept up the witty humor playing guitar and moving to the beat.

Brown and Smyth sang, as one music executive who chooses to remain anonymous said, "stunningly beautiful harmonies."

Brown, smiling with sweet intent throughout the set, sang melodies like an angel. Smyth, while telling the crowd that Creekside was "their new favorite place for coffee," taught the audience lyrics to sing along. Some of the audience may have gotten up to dance, but this reserved crowd only nodded their heads, tapped their feet to the music, and sang along. Brown feels that "singing along is very therapeutic."

Brown and Smyth's music was inspiring and uplifting. Their song list included one of their ownsongs: "Meghan's Lament," "Peter's Dream," by Lennie Gallant, and a robust down-home folk tale by Dave Carter called "Welcome to the Texas Underground."

Smyth, solo on guitar, opened the second set with a funky blues rendition of "Oh! Suzanna," an old favorite. With Brown joining him, and teaching more lyrics to the audience, everyone sang along to Ron Hines', "Sunny's Dream." This is a charming tune of a sailor's wife at home alone with her son. She does not want him to grow up



Photo by Peggy Isaacs

Rita Brown and Bill Smyth delight audiences at the Creekside Coffee Co. in Corvallis last Friday.

and leave her too. So her son stays home "waiting for the mailman to bring him silver and gold." By this time Smyth suggested to the audience to "pick up a chord and sing along to any song," which they did.

This duo's banter is humorous and can be enjoyed at the Eugene Saturday Market, June 14 between 12-1 p.m. They will also perform this summer at the OSU Campus Memorial Union on Wednesday, August 13 between 12-1 p.m.

They have two CD's for sale, one recorded in 1999 called "After All," and "Fall," in 2001. Both CD's are available for sale by contacting http://www.peak.org/~ritabill, or e-mail ritabill@peak.org.

By the end of the night, feeling good and enjoying life is the message that this couple instilled inside with their "stunningly beautiful harmonics"

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PC Technician (#1916 Eugene) Set up user stations and install software for this one-week, full-time job in Eugene that starts June 2. Great experience and they'll provide you with a secret security clearance. Must have networking! See Carla in LBCC's Student Employment (T101) for more information!

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CONGRATULATIONS! To the 54 students recently chosen to recieve scholarships through the LBCC awards process!

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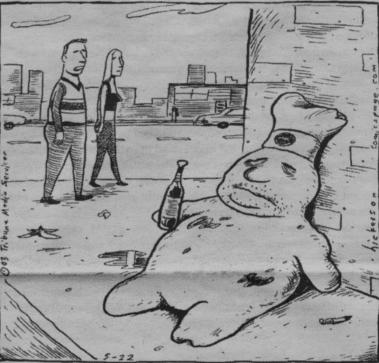
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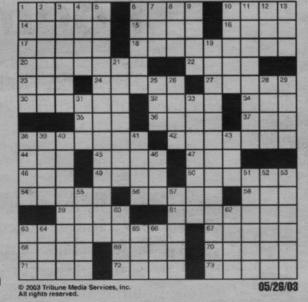
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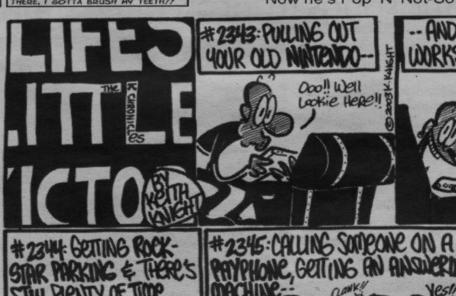
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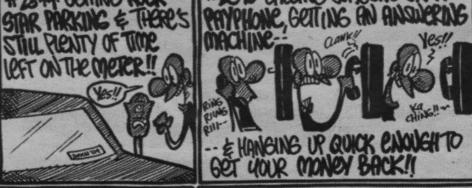
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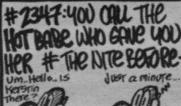
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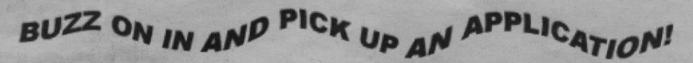
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Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222) or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-112) For additional information call ext. 4563 or 4451

THE COMMUTER

Sports Reporter: Jered Reid Newsroom Desk: 917-4453 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

Coverage of competetive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation

Hoop team gets new assistant

by Jered Reid for The Commuter

The Linn-Benton men's basketball team will have a new face on its bench this season with the hiring of West Albany's Everitt Hartman.

Hartman is the new assistant basketball coach at Linn-Benton and has been busy helping head Coach Randy Falk in recruiting for the upcoming

For the past four seasons Hartman has been the head coach for the West Albany High School boys' team. However, he had been with the West Albany program 14 years before he became the head coach fo the varsity boys' team. Hartman also teaches advance placement history, and psychology at West. Hartman's first coaching job came right after college, when he joined the Philomath High School coaching staff in 1982.

Now Coach Hartman is prepared to go up to the next level.

"I think every high school coach in the back of their minds wonders what it would be like to coach at the next level. Higher level of competition; better athletes. I think every high school coach kind of wonders how they will do at the next level," said Hartman.

Hartman prefers a fast-paced style of play

from his basketball teams. However, he believes that the college level will be a different style than he is used to, in particular due to the shot clock at the college level. The shot clock, which adds a new dimension to the game, will work into Hartman's preference for a faster paced game.

Coach Falk is in his 13th season with the Runners and is quite enthusiastic about his new assistant. Among the things that he is hoping Hartman will contribute are experience, knowledge and scouting. This was Hartman's first year of college scouting, but he has done a terrific job with it, according to Falk.

"Recruiting has been different then anything I have ever done before," said Hartman about his first year. The recruiting for this season went quite well for the Roadrunners.

Thanks to the help from Coach Hartman, the Runners were able to recruit seven athletes that they wanted. "We got a real good recruiting class," said Hartman. "We looked at our needs, in terms of team and personnel and we feel that we filled every need we really had."

Coach Hartman plans to use his first couple of seasons to learn about the college game. "I'm gonna have to learn a lot under Coach Falk, observe, and just be a good, loyal assistant coach," Coach Hartman replied.



Photo by Bonnie Quinones

Survivor Challenge

Jack Giles of Information Services deals cards at last week's staff Survivor Challenge. Giles was named the fastest player in the men's division of the mental challenge. Players also fought to outwit, outlast and outplay each other in a food challenge and obstacle course. Mike Dowless and Mo Ableman won top honors as the male and female survivors.

Smith, Best named to second team all-league

Jered Reid of The Commuter

Sophomore baseball players John Best and Cody Smith were named to the All-Southern Division Second Team last week. Both will be playing in the Sophomore All-Star game at the University of Portland Sunday. Smith and Best also took top honors at the team level—Smith was named MVP and Best got the team's Cy Young Award.

Smith, an outfielder, led the team in batting average, runs, hits, triples and stolen bases, and tied with two other players for the most RBI. He finished with a .338 batting average, 25 runs, two triples, six doubles, 12 stolen bases and 19 RBI.

Best was the ace of the pitching staff, compiling a 6-4 record and a 2.17 ERA. Best struck out 43 batters and walked only 12.

Two other sophomores, third baseman Shamen Johnson and outfielder Thomas Gulledge, received honorable mention for league honors. Johnson also received the team's Big Stick Award and Gulledge was received the Mr. Clutch Award.

Johnson was third in the team in batting average at .307 and second in hits with 39. Johnson also was the team co-leader in home runs and RBI, with two home runs and 19 runs batted in. Johnson also had six doubles and scored 13 times this season. Gulledge .was just behind Johnson in batting average and hits, with a .280 batting average and 33 hits. Gulledge scored 13 times, hit six doubles, and came up with 19 RBI.

The team's Mr. Hustle Award went to freshman catcher Speedy Ortiz and the Most Improved Player went to freshman outfielder Travis Breidenbach. Breidenbach had 22 hits this season with a .338 batting average. He also hit five doubles, scored nine times and had 13 RBI.

Freshman second baseman Jesse Thorpe was awarded Mr. Leather as the team's best defensive player. Right-handed freshman pitcher Kyle Koontz got the Rolaids Fireman's Award, which goes to the team's best reliever. Koontz pitched in 40 1/3 innings going 4-2 and getting one save. Koontz allowed 15 earned runs for a 3.35 ERA, and struck out 27 batters while walking only 12.

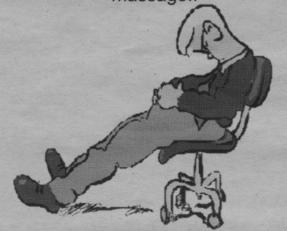
The Runners finished 16-22 this season, placing third in the Southern Division



Cody Smith was named the Roadrunners' MVP this season.

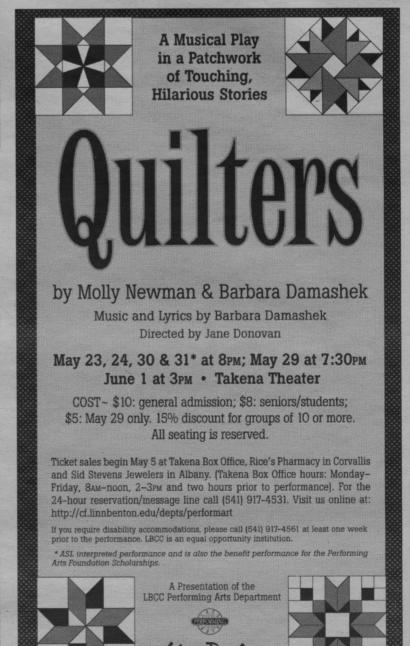
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News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus

Miding the Mails

Going by train makes getting there as fun as being there

by Kate Sundstrom for The Commuter

t was a warm, sunny, late afternoon as we arrived at the station. After we checked in, while trying to adjust the signal on Sam's mini hand-held television, we heard the attendant announce that the northbound train from San Francisco would be arriving in 30 minutes. Next thing I know, Sam and I were on the outside deck taking bets on who would hear the train first, as we waited to catch the Amtrak to take in the Seattle sights.

What sounded like thunder in the background was the multiton steel coach with iron clad wheels rounding the bend, yielding and slowing, releasing its brakes as it approached the platform. The Amtrak Cascade had arrived. It was the beginning of our journey.

Being the East Coast rebel that I am, I had been yearning to see a Yankees/Mariners baseball game forever. So, my friend Sam and I planned a trip to watch a game, take in some of Seattle's finest God-made and manmade attractions and escape from the weekend chores at home. We talked about driving to Seattle. We talked about taking a small plane to Seattle. We talked about taking the train. After discussing the pros and cons of all modes of transportation, we decided to take the train.

Dealing with traffic can be such a hassle and getting to the airport can be a nightmare. We wanted to experience the sights and sounds of nature by relaxing in a wide comfortable chair, relaxing and letting the train take us on our journey northbound. It was a good decision; one of the better ones I had made in a long time.

As we walked across the platform and onto the step stool provided by a solicitious attendant, we made a point to ask which side had the best view. "Headed north, you'll want to sit on the right," he kindly replied. So, we took his advice. He was right.

Shortly after the conductor collected passenger tickets, we began our journey.

Out my window, paralleling the train tracks for a few miles was Interstate 5. I realized how fortunate I was to not be behind the wheel of my car. I could imagine myself driving; gripping the wheel, temper rising at people tailgating-riding my butt like Mario Andretti getting ready to make his move into the final pass toward the finish line.

As the train gained speed, it generated a rhythm, not just a soothing, rocking back and forth rhythm, but a song's rhythm. As we passed by old farmlands, fields and junkyards full of rusted automobiles, I couldn't help but think of an old Arlo Guthrie song, in my head. I began humming the words of a train song called "Night time on the City of New Orleans." I just changed "New Orleans" to Se-

It was then I sat back and absorbing began Northwest's glorious sights from an elevated view aboard the rail car. I had my elbows propped on wide rests; my legs stretched out on the ottoman and suddenly, I had no cares in the



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Albany's Amtrak station puts mid-valley residents within reach of Portland and Seattle to the north, and San Francisco and Los Angeles to the south.

world. I started to observe those farmlands, junkyards (albeit ever so peaceful in itself), and all of God's creatures. There were many cows grazing in the fields, dogs in backyards, some barking toward the train, as if they were saying hello.

I was amazed at how much this route boasted some of America's breathtaking natural scenery from the Cascades to the Olympic mountain ranges. I was thankful that we inquired about seating when we left Albany-Mt. Hood was to the East—a majestic beauty rising toward the Heavens ever so slightly snowcapped—a natural wonder to me. On the west was a shiny glow of orange-yellow hues and striking red clouds above—the sun was fading; ending a wondrous day.

As the train glided forward, the journey included narrow passages of trees, it seemed we were pushing the branches open to let us through.

I was happy to be able to move about the train any time. It was so comfortable, relaxing and convenient. Sam and I went to the dining car for dinner. Covered in white linen, the stewards were cordial and professional. The prices of food items were reasonable. We had a glass of wine with dinner.

Part of train etiquette is to be seated at a table with strangers particularly when there are only two of you traveling together. We sat with two nice people. One was a professor from OSU and another was returning to the Midwest after a thirty-day tour of the western United States via train.

The trip to Seattle took about five hours, all of which went ever so quickly. My experience of gazing at our glorious land through the eyes of Amtrak was such a rewarding experience.

When we arrived at the depot in Seattle, we simply took a cab to our hotel. It was so nice not worrying about fighting traffic, finding our hotel or having to wait for luggage at the airport baggage claim.

We went to the Yankees game the next afternoon, but beforehand, we visited Pike's Market where I came across new nectar of the Gods-coffee. No, not Starbucks, not Seattle's Best but Tully's. We watched the wellknown fish throwers toss a twofoot salmon to another coworker to prepare it for shipping. Sunday, we walked all around the hills of Seattle and went to the market again, but further north we took in the picturesque scenery of Puget Sound and its glorious panoramic view of the mountains. The sound of the ferries still echoes in my mind.

Climb aboard and let the thunder roar under your feet! Recline in your seat and rock yourself into a peaceful stupor by traveling on the train.

See the unspoiled wilderness of the Pacific Northwest; catch a educational tour of historic sites; take in an adventurous ride with your family; or witness a glorious sunset with your loved one from a most relaxed atmosphere, snuggled in a blanket and pillow, swaying back and forth to the soothing rhythm of the magnificent Amtrak.

It will add a whole new dimension to your life.

Amtrak's Albany station connects with the rest of the West

south on the Coast Starlight carries you through the sleepers include meals and showers. picturesque Cascade Mountains, towering California Redwoods, fertile valleys and spectacular vineyards all the way down to San Francisco and LA.

For sleepyheads, why not go horizontal in a deluxe bedroom sleeper? Sleeper car accommodations are available on many destinations. Anyone leaving the station with reservations for a sleeper is treated with VIP flair. While waiting for departure, you are provided with a private lounge, i.e. restroom attendants, amenities, food and beverage service and an

Seattle is just one of the destinations train travelers array of seating areas luxurious enough to read, watch Pacific Northwest is easy. Trains leave daily from can reach from the Albany Amtrack Station. Heding TV or hook up to a computer. Other benefits of using the Albany and trips are available to book on line.

> A new destination added this summer is Amtrak's Empire Builder, which follows the footsteps of the Lewis and Clark Trail down the Columbia River from Portland to Astoria.

> You can also take a four-hour scenic tour of the Columbia Gorge east to the foothills of Mount Hood, where the Mount Hood Railroad provides tours from March through mid December. Find this best kept secret located just 60 miles east of Portland on I-84.

Planning your weekend get away or vacation of the on line mthoodrr@gorge.net.

Amtrak's Web site is simply www.Amtrak.com. Or call 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit the Albany station. Ask them to send you the Amtrak Travel Planner brochure, 100+ page booklet all about Amtrak. Group rates are available for 20 paying passengers or more. Students may receive a 15 percent discount after obtaining the student advantage card through Amtrak. There are many tips you can obtain through the Amtrak Web site or by calling them direct.

For Mount Hood Railroad, call 1-800-872-4661 or

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